

Foreword/Uvodna riječ

Assisting the birth of a new journal must be similar to assisting the birth of a child: a mixture of proud and enthusiasm, of hope and expectation, of fear and anxiety. The birth of the first JAHR, however, is everything but unexpected. Department of Social Sciences and Medical Humanities of University of Rijeka School of Medicine has cherished the interest for bioethics and humanities in general for years, organizing 11 annual conferences (Rijeka Days of Bioethics), the 9th World Congress of Bioethics (Rijeka-Opatija, September 2008), and publishing tens of monographs, proceedings, and papers (among other, the translations of Potter, Sass, Sakamoto, Tai, Campbell, Shinagawa, Pessini, and other into Croatian). The educational activity encompasses about 50 courses (mandatory or elective), delivered to students of various programs at University of Rijeka School of Medicine. Until summer 2008, the Department had been headed for three decades by Professor Ivan Šegota to whom my personal gratitude has to be expressed once again for his enlightening efforts that do not cease even now.

JAHR is supposed to offer one more option for international exchange of ideas, to all those who are not ready to resign to numerous ethical and logical challenges of the modern world. The name of the Annual was chosen to honor Fritz Jahr (1895.-1953.), the Protestant theologian who introduced the concept of bioethics (*Bio-Ethik*) in 1927, thus anticipating the growing collision between human material progress and human (declared) spiritual goals. (That the German word *Jahr* (year) so wittily corresponds to the notion of »annual,« represents a mere, but symbolic coincidence.)

We expect the JAHR be published once a year, but special and/or extraordinary issues might become reality, especially if we succeed in provoking more scholars to submit papers. A part of the JAHR will always be devoted to the papers presented at the previous-year Rijeka Days of Bioethics round table. Those contributions, as well as all others, will be peer reviewed by recognized experts in the field. We also would like to introduce some permanent rubriques, like »The Fathers' angle« (devoted to the work of the founders of bioethics, like Jahr, Potter, etc.), »Partner institutions« (the presentation of institutions involved in bioethical research), »News from the Department and Activity report,« letters to the Editor, book reviews, Bioethical calendar, etc. Of course, we are open for your suggestions as well.

We have limited the selection of languages to those our public and the Editorial Board can deal with more easily. We also hope to fulfill our ambitions regarding the JAHR's international indexing and databasing as soon as possible.

I would like to thank all those who, despite of their numerous obligations, accepted to become members of the Scientific Council and Editorial Board, respectively. We cordially invite the bioethical community to share its ideas and research results with us. You are doing important and promising work: do not prevent it from its indispensable impact upon the world in peril.

Amir Muzur
Editor-in-Chief